

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MAYOR GIGI GRUBER

**HON. PETER J. ROSKAM**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. ROSKAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a dedicated public servant from my Congressional District, Mayor Claudia "Gigi" Gruber of Itasca. After twelve years as Mayor, Gigi is stepping down.

In her first experience with elected public office, Gigi served one term as a Village Trustee in Itasca. Then, in May 1997, Gigi was elected Mayor of Itasca. Over the years, Gigi has been an insightful observer, keen in her understanding of the long-term challenges facing the Village. Throughout her career, she has tackled these challenges with deft skill, deep understanding, and strong personal integrity.

While constant change has brought a steady stream of new difficulties for Itasca to confront, one thing has remained the same. Mayor Gruber has kept a steady hand to the wheel, advising the Village Board and working tirelessly for the benefit of the community and her residents.

Gigi Gruber has been an advocate for the people of Itasca since her very first days in office. Gigi truly embodies the meaning of a public servant as she approaches her job with compassion and humility. In her time with the Village, she has shown true leadership to bring economic development to the area. Gigi has improved all of our lives and left an indelible impression on the Village of Itasca.

Madam Speaker and Distinguished Colleagues, Gigi Gruber is a remarkable leader who has dedicated her life to serving the people of Itasca. Please join me in recognizing her extraordinary service and wishing her every happiness in her life's upcoming endeavors.

A TRIBUTE IN REMEMBRANCE OF  
MANUEL BURGOS

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Manuel Burgos, a distinguished community activist of East New York.

Manuel Burgos is a true East New Yorker and operates the small business Rare Arts. Growing up in East New York during the 1970s enabled Mr. Burgos to see first hand how disinvestments, crime, lack of social services and inadequate healthcare effects the neighborhood he is from. Mr. Burgos decided to enter community service to enhance the atmosphere and nature of East New York.

Before he turned 13, Mr. Burgos had already participated in many vacant lot clean-ups throughout the neighborhood. By his late teens he worked as a youth leader in his

church's efforts to provide a Friday night safe haven for other youth in his neighborhood. At the age of 16, Mr. Burgos worked on a political campaign that made him realize political participation was the necessary means to effecting real change in communities like East New York. While in college he learned of the community organizing work of other young Latinos around the country and this shaped his future in critical ways.

Throughout his twenties, Mr. Burgos worked in his church as a youth mentor providing youth programming and a safe haven for teens. He worked in several nonprofits such as Cypress Hills LDC and the East New York Urban Youth Corps (ENYUYC) as a director for afterschool programming. While working for ENYUYC Mr. Burgos partnered with local police, community leaders, residents and merchants in a pilot program called Community Safety Initiative (CSI) to create a powerful problem solving consortium that was directly responsible for significant drops in violent crime. During this time, Mr. Burgos served as co-writer of the East New York Weed & Seed.

Today Mr. Burgos continues his work as a technical assistance provider on the local level, giving back to community projects that he helped build years ago. He has authored many papers on community-based collaborative problem solving and he developed a training guide on the same subject. His business, Rare Arts, is the mold of his writing and designing skills.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Manuel Burgos.

AARON MENDOZA

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Aaron Mendoza who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Aaron Mendoza is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Aaron Mendoza is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Aaron Mendoza for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

HONORING WILL ORR FOR HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young man from Georgia's 11th Congressional District who has distinguished himself as an excellent student and leader and has committed to serving his country. I am proud to announce that William Orr from Rome, Georgia, has received an appointment to the United States Military Academy. Will attends Darlington School, where he has a 3.93 Grade Point Average and has been selected as a member of the National Honor Society. In addition to his academic achievements, Will has also been an athletic star for Darlington, where he has played on Darlington's football, basketball, and soccer teams. He has earned varsity letters in four sports while at Darlington and was a captain on the football team for two years. Will is also very dedicated to public service and has participated in multiple mission trips with his church. Further, he has been selected to be a part of West Point's Summer Leadership Seminar.

Will Orr is an incredibly well-rounded young man, and I am honored to have the privilege to nominate him for an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy. I ask that my colleagues take this time to congratulate Will as well as his parents, James and Jo Orr, for all of his accomplishments. It is because of dedicated young people like Will that America has the finest military in the world. Our nation is fortunate to have his service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOHN M. McHUGH**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. McHUGH. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, May 21, 2009, I was unavoidably delayed and unable to vote on rollcall Nos. 288 through 291. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on No. 288, "yes" on No. 289, "no" on No. 290, and "yes" on No. 291.

TRIBUTE TO SSG JEFFREY ALAN HALL

**HON. PARKER GRIFFITH**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of SSG Jeffrey Alan Hall.

On June 1, 2009, Jeffrey Hall and two other soldiers were killed in Afghanistan by a roadside bomb west of Kabul. Jeffrey was part of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the U.S. Army's 2nd Battalion in the 10th Mountain Division and had achieved his life-long goal of earning the distinction of serving as a U.S. Army Ranger. As our nation and my community struggles with this sudden loss, I would like to pause and recognize Staff Sergeant Hall and the ultimate sacrifice paid by him and his family.

Jeffrey was an eight-year veteran of the United States Army, earning many well-deserved awards and decorations including two Army Commendation Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, a NATO Medal and a Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal. This was Jeffrey's third tour in Afghanistan. He was an American Hero who believed in his mission and told his father that this was a sacrifice he was willing to make to protect his country and the freedoms we enjoy.

Jeffrey Hall was a soldier but he was also a loving son to his parents Charles and Annette, a devoted husband to his wife Allison and eleven months ago became a father to Audrey Faith. Jeffrey loved life and his family and the outpouring of love and affection by his family and friends is the real tribute to the man that he was and the life that he led.

Staff Sergeant Hall is an inspiring example that we can all look up to and aspire to be like. He put the safety of all Americans before his own, and the people of this nation will be forever grateful. He motivated and inspired those around him and will be greatly missed by all who knew him, and by those who never had the honor and privilege of meeting him.

Our country lost a great soldier and an even better son last Monday. All of us in north Alabama are deeply saddened by Jeffrey's passing. On behalf of the entire community in the Tennessee Valley, across Alabama and a grateful nation, I rise today to remember SSG Jeffrey Allen Hall and to pay tribute to his honor, his sacrifice and his memory.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, please excuse me for departing early on Thursday, June 4, 2009. I left for personal reasons due to the severe illness of my brother. If I would have been here, I would have voted for H.R. 626, the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act of 2009.

#### A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THE RETIREMENT OF RICHARD A. GILTS AS PERRYSBURG POLICE CHIEF

### HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I pay a very special tribute to an outstanding Police Chief in the Fifth District of Ohio. Richard A. Gilts of Perrysburg, Ohio has been serving the area for Thirty-Nine years, where he was promoted as the Sixth Chief of Police of Perrysburg in 2003.

Madam, Speaker, there is no question that the safety of our citizens is vital. In January of 1976, when Richard was hired on to the Perrysburg Police Division, he rose through the ranks to become Sergeant in 1983 and Lieutenant in 1993. The safety of its citizens is of utmost importance to the city. Chief Gilts has demonstrated his commitment to this goal through his involvement in programs such as Safety Town, D.A.R.E., and the Perrysburg Police Foundation. Chief Gilts was an active member of Rotary International, having served as the President of the Perrysburg Rotary Chapter from 2005 to 2006.

On August 12, 2004, Chief Gilts dedicated a new 26,000 square foot police facility, which replaced the 4800 square foot station that was constructed at the same location in 1965. On August 28, 2004, Chief Gilts and the Police Division assisted with operational matters during a visit by President George W. Bush at the historic Fort Meigs Memorial Park. In the week leading up to the event, Chief Gilts and the Department were consumed by logistical and tactical issues, such as procurement and placement of equipment and props, fencing, barriers, site and crowd security, medical assistance, personnel scheduling and perimeter security.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute for the service of Chief Gilts. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I wish Chief Gilts all of the best in his future endeavors.

#### A TRIBUTE IN REMEMBRANCE OF RONALD S. CLINTON

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ronald S. Clinton, dedicated community leader and advocate.

Ron Clinton's remarkable twenty year experience is highlighted by a personal dedication to organizational effectiveness and empowering others to succeed. He has devoted most of his professional services to the areas of assessment, consultation, development, planning and management services for small, mid-size and large companies.

Mr. Clinton graduated from Boriqua College with a bachelor's degree in Human Services. He continued his graduate studies at Yeshiva University where he received his Masters of Social Work and specialized in community organizing. It was during this time that Mr. Clinton pursued and developed Helping Hands Unlimited, Inc. (HHU), a not-for-profit organization. It was through HHU that Mr. Clinton created and committed himself to the mission of bringing qualified health professionals into impoverished communities to ensure the delivery of quality care.

Mr. Clinton is President and Founder of Helping Hands Unlimited, Inc. He has represented clients in various capacities working closely with inter-governmental affairs at the city, state and federal levels ensuring the public interest of his clients. One of his paramount goals is to build a creative and aspiring consulting company over a strong foundation and guiding principles of leadership and success.

As a community leader and activist, Mr. Clinton serves on numerous boards and com-

mittees. His drive and passion for effecting positive change are evident through his personal efforts and commitment to stay involved in community service. The vast influential relationships he built over the years strengthened his solid position among his colleagues. Mr. Clinton served as the vice president of Pueblo democratic club in Williamsburg/Bushwick. He was elected as the Democratic Party's Kings County delegate for Al Gore's presidential candidacy. Mr. Clinton ran for the New York City Department of Education School District 32 School Board in 2002. In 2004, Mr. Clinton ran for New York State Senate and served as co-chair of the East New York and Brownsville HIV Care Network and is currently serving as chairperson of Woodhull Medical Center North Brooklyn Network Community Advisory Board.

Mr. Clinton enjoys spending time with his ten-year-old son, Ronald, coaching baseball, basketball and wrestling.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing a man of great conviction and dedication to community service, Ronald S. Clinton.

EMANUEL MENDEZ

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Emanuel Mendez who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Emanuel Mendez is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Emanuel Mendez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Emanuel Mendez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

#### SUPPORTING BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA DAY

SPEECH OF

### HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 8, 2009*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in celebration of the nation's largest youth scouting organization's 100th anniversary, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 356, a resolution expressing support for the designation of February 8, 2010, as "Boy Scouts of America Day."

The Boy Scouts of America is an outstanding organization that prepares young men to be the future leaders of our Nation. Since 1910, Scouting has helped mold these boys by combining educational activities and

lifelong values with fun. The Boy Scouts of America understands that helping youth puts our nation on a path toward a more conscientious, responsible, and productive society. Scouting helps young people develop self-confidence, as well as prepare them with academic, ethical, leadership, and citizenship skills that influence their adult lives.

The Boy Scouts of America builds upon strong traditional family values to complement the education of our young men through its mission of mentoring, lifelong learning, faith traditions, serving others, healthy living, and building character.

While various activities and youth groups teach basic skills and promote teamwork, Scouting goes beyond that and encourages youth to achieve a deeper appreciation for service to others in their communities. Finally, and perhaps most importantly, Scouting promotes activities that lead to personal responsibility and high self-esteem. As a result, when hard decisions must be made, peer pressure can be resisted and the right choices can be made.

Madam Speaker, from the beginning of the Boy Scout program to the eventual completion and rank of Eagle Scout, Boy Scouts of America has long trained young men in the necessary skills that will enable them to be the future leaders of the United States. I applaud the efforts and the accomplishments of all of our nation's Boy Scouts, and specifically those of the 11th District of Georgia, which is my privilege to represent in Congress. I urge all of my colleagues to continue to support this honorable organization and the excellent young men that it continues to produce.

#### MEDICARE TRANSITION CARE ACT OF 2009

#### HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I am proud to introduce the Medicare Transition Care Act of 2009.

When people leave the hospital after an operation or illness, they are often overwhelmed by a complicated and risky road to recovery. Patients frequently report difficulty remembering clinical instructions, confusion over medications, and, in cases where multiple providers are involved, often get conflicting instructions from different providers. Providing a transitional care benefit within Medicare will help coordinate care, develop a care plan for patients and their caregivers, identify potential health risks, and prevent unnecessary hospitalizations.

This bipartisan legislation gets to the heart of improving quality while reducing costs. A study published in April 2009 in the New England Journal of Medicine found that almost one-third of Medicare beneficiaries studied who were discharged from a hospital were re-hospitalized within 90 days. Additionally, one-half of the individuals re-hospitalized had not visited a physician since their discharge, indicating a lack of follow-up care. The study estimated that Medicare spent \$17.4 billion in 2004 on unplanned re-hospitalizations.

The Medicare Transition Care Act will directly address continuity of care problems by

increasing support to patients as they move from the hospital to their new care setting and ensuring that appropriate follow-up care is provided during this vulnerable period. The benefit would be phased-in, initially targeting just the most at-risk individuals by providing evidence-based transitional care services tailored to their specific needs.

I am proud to partner with Congressman BOUSTANY, a cardiothoracic surgeon, on this commonsense legislation that will improve the quality and efficiency of our health care system.

#### HONORING THE INDIANA NATIONAL GUARD'S 1313TH ENGINEER COMPANY WHO WILL SOON BE DEPLOYING TO IRAQ

#### HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, today, I would like to pay honor to the Indiana National Guard's 1313th Engineer Company, who will be deploying to Iraq in July and spending the next year there. These brave citizen soldiers, based out of Camp Atterbury in Edinburg, IN, will be conducting a wide range of engineering missions in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; including searching for improvised explosive devices, building roads and bridges, and, in general, improving lives to both our service personnel in Iraq and Iraqi civilians.

I am confident that their skilled work and dedication to duty will save lives, improve conditions in Iraq, and ultimately work toward the completion of our country's mission in Iraq.

I would also like to honor the families of these Guardsmen, who without their love and support, would make this already difficult task that much more challenging. They too share in the hardships of military service, and they too deserve our utmost thanks and respect.

These brave Hoosier Guardsmen and their families will be in my thoughts and prayers.

#### CONGRATULATING RAMSEY POLICE DEPARTMENT D.A.R.E. PROGRAM STUDENTS

#### HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, today, the Ramsey Police Department will hold its D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony with the students from the John Y. Dater and St. Paul Interparochial Schools. The young people participating in this important program have made a commitment to say no to drugs, underage drinking, and gang violence. They have done this with the support of Chief of Police Bryan Gurney and the brave men and women of the Ramsey Police Department.

Drug Abuse Resistance Education, or D.A.R.E., began as a small program in Los Angeles in 1983. Today, it is implemented in more than 75 percent of our nation's school districts and in more than 43 other nations. This program allows children to defeat the

negative cultural influences that they are challenged with daily by opening the lines of communication between law enforcement and youth and empowering them with confidence and courage to say no to drugs.

I am proud of the young boys and girls who participated in this program in Ramsey, and I would like to recognize them all for taking this step toward positive citizenship:

Mark Andersen, Michael Babikian, Samuel Berman, Brianna Bussiere, Olivia Carriero, Michael Cassella, Francesca De Palo, Matthew De Pinto, Sonny Del Valle, Ross Farcas, Fiona Flood, Melanie Greenberg, Dwight Han, Sarah Hattar, Lindsay Hoffman, Morgan Kleinberg, Julie McNamara, Justin Millet, Brandon O'Callahan, Courtney Schreiber, Ryan Scialla, Nikita Serafin, Ashley Sicard, Jacob Simpson, Zachary Becher, Jessica Bell, Jacob Berkofsky, Kaley Bogden, Michael Brunton, Elizabeth Burch, Michael Careccia, Connor Chamberlin, Kara Checke, Emily Derleth, Marc Doran, Shannon Fine, Joseph Frohlich, Christina Goudelias, Joseph Guthrie, Patrick Journick, Brian Lander, Elaine Les, Emmanuel Lugo Abreu, Brandon Mazzola, Rebecca Moya, Allison Murphy, Stephen Pirro, Kelly Richter, Alaina Sebes, Lucas Alvarez, Rosemary Arpino, Christopher Di Palma, Katherine Donnelly, Daniel Donovan, Ryan Faulkner, Thomas Feehan, Daniel Gallombardo, Meredith Halik, Haruna Ishii, Kevin Johns, Melissa Lara, Devan Larson, Maria Martino, Jesse Mitchell, Megan Murphy, Mariana Perez, Eric Pflugfelder, Stephen Porter, Christine Song, Austin Triglia, Kayla Vanderbilt, Siera Vari, Alexandra Alo, Robert Beers, Joshua Bialkin, Emma Bogaenko, Megan Bosso, Gregory Botz, Carlie Capela, Joseph Carroll, Nicole De Franco, Matthew Donnelly, Bridget Gregory, JohnEric Hornyak, Ashley Houser, Kenneth Kasprzak, Kevin Latz, Kellen McDonald, Peter McNally, Kazuki Miyamoto, Amanda Nedelkoff, Bridget Quinn, Victoria Stitz, Samantha Stollman, Caitlin Sweeney, Evan Szucs, John Alicandri, Jenna Bahnsen, Olivia Cseh, Matthew Desimone, Conor Dobson, Olivia Gilligan, Mackenzie Juhlin, Elise Kelly, Sean Kopczynski, Kelsey Larkin, Erin Latz, Katherine Lenahan, Garrett Mast, Kathryn Miller, Jennifer Monteith, Patrick O'Keefe, Jeffrey Padovano, Jacqueline Pesco, Sean Riordan, Jared Schwarz, Alexander Sebastiano, Haydn Van Dyk, Lauren Venturini, Kaitlyn Zwerling, Sarah Ahearn, Kayla Azouri, Danny Balbuena, Tye Baruffaldi, Nicole Borbone, Samuel Brickman, Gabrielle Daniels, Kristen Foelsch, Anne Glerum, Jake Gursaly, Josue Herrera, Siranush Hovhannisyann, Kathryn Iannuzzi, Kazel Kapadia, Brendan Mahon, Peter Mariani, Robert McOwen, Victoria Medlicott, David Mende, Harrison Mobbs, Jessica Pevny, Elena Polin, Henry Ruitenber, Ryan Shevlin, Christopher Spittler, Kimberly Tuntigian, Brita Andersen, Taylor Corbett, Julia D'Antonio, Matthew Davidson, Sean Donnelly, Sean Donohue, Timothy Finnegan, Lillian Hong, Samantha Hotz, Harrison Illes, Brendan Jahnke, Khadija Khan, Lily Kramer, Brian Kurnentz, Lacey Laggan, Thomas Lanning, James Messina, John Milligan, James O'Keefe, James Pupalaikis, Alyssa Rose, Breanna Russell, Elisa Silecchia, Kara Sutcliffe, Anna Wanner, Jack August, Brooke Bernier, Carlo Alberto Bolognini, Kelly Carolan, Jake Cataldo, Christina Cowie, Deanna De Luca, Brooke Dommene, Matthew Eng, Jacob Englishman, Zachary

Gampel, Evan Graf, Rio Greenshields, Beatrice Lee, Chae Young Lee, Matthew Lee, Daniel Moon, Kyle Pacenza, Arpeet Patel, Emily Patunas, Madison Smith, Brooke Tommaney, Hannah Tracy, Heather Wang, David Acampora, Antonio Belmonte, Paige Cassella, Michael Cirilli, Ethan Cohen, Samantha Creamer, Athena Davis, Lia DiPiazza, Brianna Francis, Brianna Jakus, Matthew Lowery, Wesley Ng, Ian Quin, Basit Qurbanzada, Adam Reisfield, Alexa Remia, Zachary Rockefeller, Bridget Scanlon, Thomas Scanlon, Jonathan Scheibenpflug, Shayna Scott, Jeong Seo, Ashley Silecchia, Emily Yankovich, Laura Branna, Kyle Buser, Dale Cheyne, Sophia Colon, Pauline Crepy, William Danz, Kyle DeBel, Amber Finkeldey, John Gaffney, Lina Hyman, Julianne Kadien, Alexandra Kilkenny, Julia Kissel, Jeffrey Lieto, Magennis, Thomas McCormack, Michael McGuirk, Jannica Mendez, Aleasa Molinari, Matthew Myhr, Matthew San Julian, Margaret Schiazza, Evan Shi, Michael Turso, Peyton Wejnert, Min Soo Kang, Scott Balcom, Bridget Beyer, Emily Boylan, Kevin Caroli, Sophie D'Souza, Lauren Gallagher, Yeonsoo Kim, Jack Kuipers, Connor LaSpina, Jeffrey Lieto, Margaret McCarthy, Ryan McKenna, Justin Murad, Kerri-Anne Nicholson, Rosemary Pawloski, Brandon Potenza, Nicholas Proscia, Tyler Ramirez, Hayley Rieman, William Romano, Melissa Samanoglu, Nicholas Scavone, Kathleen Smith, Alexander Tekerian, Daniel Tuite, Roberto Paraz, Michael Han, and Issaac Utter.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize Patrolman Timothy Shoemaker, Lead D.A.R.E. Instructor for the Ramsey Police Department. A thirteen-year veteran of the force, Patrolman Shoemaker was recently honored as the New Jersey D.A.R.E. Officer of the Year. As Patrolman Shoemaker told the Bergen Record, "A policeman needs to be a leader and a role model in the community. I'll protect you from the bad guys. But, also, if you're going through something tough . . . a policeman can be your friend." Patrolman Shoemaker has daily lived up to these words. All who interact with Patrolman Shoemaker—criminals aside—can't help but sing his praises, and today I add my voice to the choir. I commend this humble and dedicated public servant on this well deserved recognition. I know Ramsey students and parents alike would join me in saying that our streets are safer and communities stronger for his presence.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I missed three votes. I would have voted:

Rollcall No. 311, on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 1736, the International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2009, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 312, on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H.R. 1709, the STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009, I would have voted "yea."

Rollcall No. 313, on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 420, Cele-

brating the symbol of the United States flag and supporting the goals and ideals of Flag Day, I would have voted "yea."

#### A TRIBUTE IN REMEMBRANCE OF REVEREND DOCTOR PASTOR LAURENT LOUIS

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Reverend Doctor Pastor Laurent Louis, a man dedicated to serving God, his family and the community.

Pastor Laurent Louis was born on February 12, 1956 in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. He attended Lycee Petion a school that stressed duty, responsibility and serving others. In June 1978, he graduated high school and studied theology at the International Seminary of California. He is a caring father, loving husband, devoted pastor and a committed community leader.

At the age of 15, Pastor Louis began serving his church and the community with great respect and responsibility. He taught Sunday school and led the youth to a spiritual and disciplined life while devoting time and energy to his community. People in his community elected him to be the General Secretary of the soccer teams of the Croix Des Bouquets. He later became a sports broadcaster and an impartial referee in his sportive career. He knew health and sports can lead to good academics and a successful life.

Pastor Louis came to New York City in January of 1981 and soon fell in love with the Big Apple. He saw the need for his community to organize spiritually, and he immediately joined Emmanuel Baptist Church. It did not take his pastor long to discover Pastor Louis' leadership and appointed him assistant pastor, youth president and leader of the missionary. He accomplished his mission so well that when there was a need for a station church at Coney Island, Pastor Louis was selected to take on the task; within a few months there were 40 members.

Pastor Laurent Louis also founded an academic club to have students help one another. He understood how to bring good people together from the community to help in this endeavor. This club saved many young students and 95 percent succeeded academically. With good will and the help of good people, Pastor Louis was able to accomplish so much for his community.

Pastor Louis has been happily married for 25 years, and enjoyed a successful life with his wife Marie Mireille Louis and their six children. His first daughter Deborah, his sons Nathanael and Benjamin are attending college. His daughters Eltamar and Jessica are in high school and Johanna is in elementary school.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Pastor Laurent Louis.

JUSTIN MCAADOW

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Justin McAdow who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Justin McAdow is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Justin McAdow is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Justin McAdow for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

#### HONORING DUNCAN HALL FOR HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

#### HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young man from Georgia's 11th Congressional District who has distinguished himself as an excellent student and leader and has committed to serving his country. I am proud to announce that Duncan Hall from Kennesaw, Georgia has received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy.

Duncan attends North Cobb High School, where he has a 4.104 Grade Point Average and is the Vice President of the student body. Duncan is the Commanding Officer of the North Cobb and Harrison High School NJROTC Unit and has been the NJROTC Unit Academic Team Commander for the past two years. Duncan also serves as NJROTC Academic Tutor and a Character Education Advisor for Underclassman. He was presented the Theodore Roosevelt Youth Medal for Outstanding Performance of Duty in the NJROTC program by the Navy League of the United States and was selected as the Atlanta Metropolitan Navy League's 2nd runner up for Cadet of the Year. Duncan has also been recognized with the American Legion's Scholastic Achievement Medal.

In addition to Duncan's focus on academics and military preparation, he has remained very active in extracurricular activities, lettering on both North Cobb's track and cross country teams. Duncan Hall is an incredibly well-rounded young man, and I am honored to have the privilege to nominate him for an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. I ask that my colleagues take this time to congratulate Duncan as well as his parents, Duncan and Stefani Hall, for his accomplishments. It is because of dedicated young people like Duncan that America has the finest military in the

world. Our nation is fortunate to have his service.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. PAUL W. HODES

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. HODES. Madam Speaker, I missed the following votes on June 8, 2009. I would have voted as follows:

(1) Rollcall vote 311—H.R. 1736—International Science and Technology Cooperation Act of 2009 (Representative BAIRD—Science and Technology)—“yea.”

(2) Rollcall vote 312—H.R. 1709—STEM Education Coordination Act of 2009 (Representative GORDON—Science and Technology)—“yea.”

(3) Rollcall vote 313—H. Res. 420—Celebrating the symbol of the United States flag and supporting the goals and ideals of Flag Day (Representative LATT—Oversight and Government Reform)—“aye.”

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. HENRY C. “HANK” JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained and was unable to vote on Thursday, the 4th of June. Had I been present, I would have voted: “No” on rollcall vote No. 309, On Motion to Recommit with Instructions to H.R. 626.

“Yea” on Final Passage of H.R. 626, Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act of 2009.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, on Monday, June 8, 2009, I was not present for 3 recorded votes. Please let the record show that had I been present, I would have voted the following way:

Roll No. 311—“yea,” Roll No. 312—“yea,” Roll No. 313—“yea.”

IN HONOR OF JAMES E. LEIGHTY,  
LIEUTENANT COLONEL, USMC

### HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Lieutenant Colonel James E. Leighty, USMC, upon his retirement after twenty years of service to the Marine Corps and to the Nation. My initial experience with Lt. Col. Leighty was when he was selected to serve as a Congressional Fellow in my office

in 2004. During this period, he displayed a dedication to duty and a maturity that represent the finest attributes of the men and women wearing our Nation's uniform. After completing his fellowship, Lt. Col. Leighty was assigned to the Pentagon, assuming the vitally important position as the principal Marine Corps Appropriations Liaison Officer. In that capacity, he was the primary source of information and education regarding Marine Corps programs for the Members and staff of the Congress' Appropriations Committees. Lt. Col. Leighty was instrumental in articulating Marine Corps requirements on a wide range of issues, from the needs of our Wounded Warriors and their families to the requirements of Marines on the front lines in Iraq.

In addition, Lt. Col. Leighty often accompanied Members of Congress and their staff on official travel to various locations around the world. During these trips, he was always focused, enthusiastic and totally knowledgeable on the Marine Corps. He provided valuable insights to all those he accompanied.

Lt. Col. Leighty was born in Roseburg, OR and graduated from the University of Rochester in 1989 with a degree in Economics and Political Science, and received his commission through the NROTC program. His various assignments included a tour as a Budget Officer with the Marine Corps Systems Command in Quantico, VA, Deputy Comptroller for the 3d Marine Division in Okinawa, Comptroller for the 12th Marine Corps District aboard Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, and analyst within Programs & Resources, Headquarters Marine Corps. He has attended the Amphibious Warfare School at Quantico, and the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California.

Lt. Col. Leighty's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal.

On behalf of the United States Congress, I wish to express my sincere thanks for his hard work, selfless service, and dedication to the Marine Corps. I want to personally wish him and Jayne continued success in all their future endeavors.

#### A TRIBUTE IN REMEMBRANCE OF RONALD LAW

### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Ronald Law, a dedicated public servant of New York.

Ronald Law has spent his career in both public and private sectors as an advocate for education, health care, community development, business management and human rights. Mr. Law has held key positions in city, state and federal government. He has served two governors, a United States Senator and New York City Mayor. He has an undergraduate degree from the State University of New York at New Paltz and is a graduate of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Mr. Law began his career in 1976 as a member of the advance and scheduling team for the mayoral candidacy of then Manhattan Borough President Percy Sutton. In 1978 he

joined the staff of Governor Hugh L. Carey, as a confidential assistant. In July of 1985 Mr. Law was appointed Executive Director of the Paul Robeson Health Organization in Central Harlem, a fee-for-service health care facility offering 32 medical services. Upon leaving the Paul Robeson Health Organization, he became the Executive Director of the Center for the City, an organization sponsored by the New York City Council of Churches. Mr. Law directed IDS education, drug prevention, emergency shelter and community outreach for this organization.

In 1990, Governor Mario M. Cuomo appointed Mr. Law Director of the New York State Crisis Prevention Unit within the New York State Division of Human Rights. In 1993, Mr. Law joined the staff of the U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan as the New York Regional Director. In 1996, he joined Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani's administration as the chief of staff for Deputy Mayor Rudy Washington. Today he is the Director of Intergovernmental Relations for Metro Plus Health Plan, a subsidiary of the New York City Health & Hospitals Corporation.

Mr. Law is a member of the New Paltz Foundation which raises funds for scholarships, campus programs and student/faculty mentoring experiences. Mr. Law has published an article on health care in The Review of Black Political Economy.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ronald Law and his many contributions to New York.

#### KAITLYN MAZZONE

### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kaitlyn Mazzone who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kaitlyn Mazzone is a senior at Arvada West High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kaitlyn Mazzone is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kaitlyn Mazzone for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

HONORING SCOTT ROWE FOR HIS  
APPOINTMENT TO THE UNITED  
STATES NAVAL ACADEMY

### HON. PHIL GINGREY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young man from

Georgia's 11th Congressional District who has distinguished himself as an excellent student and leader and has committed to serving his country. I am proud to announce that Scott Rowe from Kennesaw, Georgia has received an appointment to the United States Naval Academy. Scott attends Harrison High School, where he has a 3.75 Grade Point Average and has earned the College Board AP Scholar Award. Scott is also a member of Mensa. In addition to Scott's focus on academics, he has remained very active in extracurricular activities. He is on Harrison's wrestling and swim teams and is President of the school's Integrity Team.

Scott is also very involved in community service activities, such as Habitat for Humanity. Scott Rowe is an incredibly well-rounded young man, and I am honored to have the privilege to nominate him for an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. I ask that my colleagues take this time to congratulate Scott as well as his parents, Larry and Barbara Rowe, for his accomplishments. It is because of dedicated young people like Scott that America has the finest military in the world. Our nation is fortunate to have his service.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNSON COUNTY ASSISTANT ELECTION COMMISSIONER KAREN BROWNING

**HON. DENNIS MOORE**

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to pay Karen Browning, who recently stepped down after 41 years of service with the Johnson County, Kansas, Election Office, including 27 years as Assistant Election Commissioner.

Dedicated, experienced public servants like Karen Browning are the glue that holds government together at all levels, but they often do not receive the respect and consideration that they deserve. Karen Browning's retirement took from her office 41 years of deep devotion to her community and an intricate knowledge of the rules and history of Johnson County elections—a background that the citizens of Johnson County will find to be irreplaceable. I am pleased to have this opportunity to share with the other members of the House of Representatives a brief profile of Karen Browning which recently was published in the Johnson County Sun. I know that all Johnson Countians join with me in wishing Karen Browning all the best as she embarks upon her much deserved retirement, and we also thank her for her years of dedicated service and work to ensure that Johnson County elections have been conducted in a manner above reproach.

ELECTION OFFICIAL RETIRES AFTER SERVING 40 YEARS

(By Chuck Kurtz)

It was a one-issue, one-candidate "election" and assistant election commissioner Karen Browning cast the only vote: "Yes to Proposition Retirement."

After nearly 41 years with the Johnson County Election Office in Olathe, Browning officially retired May 22; a reception in her honor is planned for 3 to 6 p.m. June 17 at the Election Office, 2101 E. Kansas City Road, Southeast of Bass Pro, where Kansas

Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh will pay tribute to her service.

Also speaking will be County Chairwoman Annabeth Surbaugh and Johnson County Election Commissioner Brian Newby.

Browning said she always will look back on her career with great fondness.

"My time at the Election Office was an incredible experience, full of hard work, passion for elections and democracy," she said. "It has been a great career that I have always enjoyed, but it's time for a new chapter in my life and to take it easy." In the past 40 years Browning has: Worked in more than 200 Johnson County elections, including 11 presidential elections; Served under six of Johnson County's eight election commissioners and 32 county commissioners; and, Watched the county's voter registration increase almost fourfold.

She said she welcomed the end to hand-counting thousands of paper ballots when the county switched to touch-screen voting machines. Counting paper ballots is time consuming, she said, and computers bring quicker results and less stress.

Browning's passion for the importance of voting was instilled in her as a child.

"My folks always talked about voting and how important it was," she said. "I started when I was young. Voting was already an important part of my life."

That led to her passion for doing her best as an employee at the election office. Newby said Browning was a walking encyclopedia and office historian. She has complete records on every election since she has been with the county.

"If anyone has a question about a past election, Karen is the person to ask," he said.

"She has given so much to our county and to our voters; she provided the best return on tax dollars that could ever be imagined," Newby said. "She leaves with the distinction of being the most effective election office employee ever in Johnson County."

In Browning's first presidential election Nov. 5, 1968, a total of 88,314 of Johnson County's 100,610 registered voters cast their ballots. In her last presidential election, Nov. 5, 2008, a total of 285,001 of the 364,441 registered voters cast ballots.

Her first job at the election office was as a key punch operator since all voter registration cards and reports were typed by hand.

"When we processed registrations, we typed them into the books that went to the polling places," she said. "We typed men on one page and women on another, which I found very interesting."

Newby said Browning has been instrumental in the evolution of the voter registration process, which she has overseen for many years.

In 1978, Browning was named election clerk supervisor followed by election manager in 1979 with primary responsibilities for voter registration and list maintenance.

She has served as assistant election commissioner the past 27 years.

Browning also has overseen Census and mapping operations, and knows Johnson County geography like the back of her hand, since any "visible ground feature" might someday be needed as a precinct boundary.

Although the election process has experienced significant changes over the years, Browning said one thing has not changed. The integrity of the ballot, even from a touch-screen voting machine, is still held sacred, and that requires rigorous adherence to the office's confirmation procedures, she said.

Browning has mixed feelings about leaving Johnson County public service, but admits she will most miss the people.

"Elections begin and end with people," she said.

In retirement, Browning plans to spend more time with her family, and continue to volunteer in her many civic and church activities.

Her family includes three sons, three grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

"We will miss her and wish her well," Newby said, "but we are gratified to know that she will always be a phone call away to advise us if we have a thorny issue. We even offered—threatened, I guess—to continue equipping her with a Blackberry so she could still be in the e-mail loop and give us guidance."

So far, no response from Browning.

**EARMARK DECLARATION**

**HON. JO ANN EMERSON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mrs. EMERSON. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the House Republican standards on earmarks, I am submitting the following information in regards to the Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill and the Fiscal Year 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill.

Requesting Member: Representative JO ANN EMERSON

Bill: Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill

Account: OJP-Byrne

Requesting Entity: Southeast Missouri Network Against Sexual Violence

Address of Requesting Entity: 1106 Missouri Avenue, West Plains, Missouri 65775

Description of Request: To provide an earmark of \$200,000 to the Southeast Missouri Network Against Sexual Violence (SEMO NASV) to equip and staff an office in the Bootheel of Missouri to assist victims of domestic and sexual violence, as well as support local law enforcement investigations. SEMO NASV provides services to over 700 adult and child victims of sexual and physical abuse. The organization serves a 10 county region in Southeastern Missouri. It plays a vital role in the process of convicting sex offenders, provides counseling and other services to victims. The funds will be spent as follows: \$126,000 for personnel, \$59,000 for equipment, \$12,000 for office space, and \$3,000 for training and travel.

Requesting Member: Representative JO ANN EMERSON

Bill Number: Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill.

Account: COPS-Meth

Requesting Entity: Southeast Missouri Drug Task Force

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 1763, Sikeston, Missouri 63801

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$200,000 to supplement and support operations of the Southeast Missouri Drug Task Force (SEMO DTF). SEMO DTF is a multi-jurisdictional drug task force unit that serves a 10-county area of Southeast Missouri. The unit conducts both covert and overt investigations into the possession, manufacture, and distribution of controlled substances. The funds will be spent as follows: \$32,000 for personnel, \$89,000 for overtime compensation, \$66,000 for equipment, \$4,500 for telecommunication services, \$6,000 for supplies, and \$2,500 for personnel expenses.

Requesting Member: Representative JO ANN EMERSON

Bill: Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill

Account: COPS-Meth

Requesting Entity: Mineral Area Drug Task Force/City of Leadington, Missouri

Address of Requesting Entity: P.O. Box 349, Farmington, MO 63640

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$200,000 to assist with funding Mineral Area Drug Task Force's enforcement efforts in locating, dismantling, and reducing the number of methamphetamine laboratories within the area of their operation. Approximately \$124,000 is for the purchase of equipment to assist officers in their investigations, \$36,000 is for overtime for officers assigned to methamphetamine investigations, \$16,000 is for office and field supplies to assist officers in the preparation of reports and to provide supplies to facilitate the processing of clandestine labs, and \$24,000 is for travel and training to equip officers with the knowledge to efficiently perform their duties.

Requesting Member: Representative JO ANN EMERSON

Bill: Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill

Account: COPS-Meth

Requesting Entity: Howell County, Missouri

Address of Requesting Entity: 1106 Missouri Avenue, West Plains, Missouri 65775

Description of Request: Provide an earmark of \$250,000 for the South Central Drug Task Force to enhance drug enforcement in project area. South Central Drug Task Force is a multijurisdictional drug enforcement task force, and an existing HIDTA initiative within Midwest HIDTA, comprised of federal, state, and local law enforcement officers including nine Sheriffs Departments, Municipal Police Departments, Missouri State Highway Patrol, United States Forest Service, and United States Park Service. Approximately \$50,000 in overtime funding for existing narcotics officers; \$122,500 for technical surveillance and reporting equipment; \$65,000 for civilian personnel/Intel analyst; and \$12,500 for consumable supplies.

Requesting Member: Representative JO ANN EMERSON

Bill: Fiscal Year 2010 Commerce, Justice, and Science Appropriations Bill

Account: COPS-Law Enforcement Technology

Requesting Entity: St. Francois County, Missouri

Address of Requesting Entity: 102 Industrial Drive, Park Hills, MO 63601

Description of Request: Provide an earmark for the Southeast Missouri Law Enforcement District for \$697,000 project for the following counties of the 8th Congressional District to acquire and greatly benefit from availability of a Law Enforcement Visual Tool: Iron, Washington, and Bollinger. Federal, state, and local agencies will have a common tool to jointly manage emergencies. The project enhances public safety, officer safety, by placing sophisticated geospatial intelligence information in the hands of emergency responders. The funding would be used as follows: \$12,000 for project administration, \$675,000 for image libraries, and \$10,000 for equipment.

Requesting Member: Representative JO ANN EMERSON

Bill: Fiscal Year 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill

Account: State and Local Programs

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Howell County Emergency Preparedness

Address of Requesting Entity: 3 Courthouse, West Plains, Missouri 65775

Description of Request: Provide an earmark for \$250,000 for an Emergency Operations Center in West Plains, Missouri. The Emergency Operations Center will serve the residents of Howell County and surrounding counties in the region in case of any natural or man-made hazards. The funding is budgeted at approximately \$7,275 for administrative and legal expenses; \$81,000 for land, structures, right-of-ways, appraisals, etc.; \$2,925 for project inspection and architectural and engineering fees; \$153,175 for equipment, construction and miscellaneous items; \$5,625 for contingencies.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. KURT SCHRADER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. SCHRADER. Madam Speaker, on June 8, 2009 I missed rollcall votes 311, 312, and 313 due to personal reasons. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on all three votes.

#### A TRIBUTE IN REMEMBRANCE OF DENNIS J. TAYLOR

#### HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Dennis J. Taylor, a community activist and ordained minister who has impacted Brooklyn in countless ways.

Dennis Taylor has been living and serving the East New York and Brownsville communities for more than twenty years. He began his career as a volunteer, ministering and advocating for the rights of community residents. For a number of years, Mr. Taylor served as a community organizer for a local nonprofit organization where he assisted residents by empowering them through the creation of tenant and block associations. As a member of Community Board #5, Dennis Taylor leads the council in creating positive change for all residents, regardless of their ethnicity or culture.

As the founder and executive director of The Sabaoth Group, Inc., Dennis Taylor conceived and developed strategies that provide community support services to more than 800 families in the East New York, Brownsville, Bushwick and Bedford-Stuyvesant communities. He is the primary coordinator of services and initiatives, in addition to securing funding through foundations, government grants and Requests for Proposals. Mr. Taylor developed strategies to create linkages between community law enforcement, community residents and faith-based organizations. He also created initiatives and developed strategies for resident advocacy, tenant organizing and community activism while conducting tenant relocations for more than 300 families. Mr. Taylor is also a founding partner in TDT De-

velopment, LLC, a community housing development organization.

Mr. Taylor began his involvement in tenant services by leading the residents of a dangerously neglected city-owned property through a process of renewed commitment from the City of New York and their subsequent resettlement. He has a reputation for producing consistent results and maintaining honor and integrity in the community. Mr. Taylor sits on various steering and advisory committees in East New York.

In 2006, Dennis Taylor became an ordained Minister who has garnered a sterling reputation in the East New York community.

Dennis Taylor is married to Anita Joyner-Taylor. He has two daughters (Danesha and Keyaira), and two granddaughters (Faith and Patience). Mr. Taylor holds an A.A.S. in Computer Technology, a Certificate from Fordham University in Social Work and numerous certificates from the Department of Housing Preservation and Development. Mr. Taylor is a first call advisor to many grassroots organizations seeking guidance, direction and/or logistical assistance in the acquisition of their goals and objectives.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Dennis J. Taylor.

#### KELSEY MAY

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Kelsey May who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Kelsey May is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Kelsey May is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Kelsey May for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

#### TRIBUTE TO DAVID J. KEARS

#### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 9, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay to tribute to David J. Kears, Agency Director for the Alameda County Healthcare Services Agency. Mr. Kears is retiring from his position and a farewell party has been planned in his honor on June 10, 2009.

Mr. Kears' scholastic endeavors brought him to the University of California, Berkeley, where he graduated in 1968 with a major in Sociology. He continued his graduate work at



Berkeley and received a Masters Degree in 1970 in Social Welfare with a Psychiatric Casework Specialty. He also holds a Clinical Social Work license.

Mr. Kears performed his internship at the Sonoma State Hospital and Children's Guidance Clinic in Palo Alto. After graduation, he went to work as a Psychiatric Social Worker at Napa State Hospital. He thrived in that setting from 1970 to 1974 and advanced to Assistant Program Director.

He began his career with Alameda County as a Psychiatric Social Worker in 1974 and held a number of major department head positions in the Health Care Services Agency. In March 1986, Mr. Kears was appointed to the Agency Director position, at which time he not only took over the weighty matters of the Agency but also became Acting Director of Highland General Hospital during a time of reorganization.

Currently, as director of the Health Care Services Agency, Mr. Kears provides overall direction, consultation and troubleshooting to the four major departments comprising the agency which include Indigent Care; Public Health Department; Environmental Health Services and Behavioral Health Care Services. From 1993 to 1998, Mr. Kears assumed the additional responsibility for developing a public/private Medi-Cal managed care program, the Alameda Alliance for Health, pursuant to the State of California Department of Health Services' directive. The Alliance is now a fully licensed HMO comprised of traditional Medi-Cal and safety net county and community providers.

Mr. Kears' most recent major program responsibilities included coordinating the County's Indigent Medical Care System and monitoring contracts with the Alameda County Medical Center and a broad network of community-based primary care providers.

A number of non-profit organizations, commissions, government agencies and health systems have benefited from Mr. Kears' leadership, vast knowledge and experience in the development and implementation of county and state health care policies.

I join Dave Kears' colleagues in thanking him for his years of commitment and service in making a difference in the lives of others.

#### HONORING ANDREW NEAULT FOR HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young man from Georgia's 11th Congressional District who has distinguished himself as an excellent student and leader and has committed to serving his country. I am proud to announce that Andrew Neault from Kennesaw, Georgia has received an appointment to the United States Merchant Marine Academy.

Andrew attends Paulding County High School where he has a 3.7 Grade Point Aver-

age and is a member of the BETA Club. Andrew has been very active with the JROTC where he has excelled as a State Champion JROTC raider. He also served as the Athletic Director and Chief Petty Officer for the Navy Delayed Entry Program.

In addition to Andrew's focus on academics and military preparation, he has remained very active in extracurricular activities. Andrew is on Paulding's football and wrestling teams and is a four-time nominee for the "People to People" student ambassador program. He is also very involved in community service, having volunteered at the Sunbelt Christian Youth Ranch in Mississippi, Thanksgiving for the Homeless, Thanksgiving for Youth Penitentiary, and Operation North Pole.

Andrew Neault is an incredibly well-rounded young man, and I am honored to have the privilege to nominate him for an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy. I ask that my colleagues take this time to congratulate Andrew as well as his parents, Raymond and Lynette Neault, for his accomplishments. It is because of dedicated young people like Andrew that America has the finest military in the world. Our nation is fortunate to have his service.

#### HONORING THE WORK OF LOUISE BALLERSTEDT RAGGIO, MOTHER OF THE TEXAS FAMILY CODE

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Louise Ballerstedt Raggio, a trailblazer and an advocate who has spent her life making sure that women and families have equal rights under the law.

Mrs. Raggio was born in Manor, Texas and spent the early part of her life as the daughter of a hardworking, Texas farm family. From an early age, she learned the importance of perseverance and dedication to a cause, and these traits have remained persistent throughout her life. She graduated first in her class from high school and went on to earn an undergraduate degree with highest honors from the University of Texas at Austin.

After marrying and giving birth to two children, Mrs. Raggio began law school at Southern Methodist University in a time when it was not typical for a woman to do so. During law school, she gave birth to a third son, and although it was difficult, she persisted, graduated, and passed the Texas State Bar in 1952. Later, she took a job in the Dallas County District Attorney's office and took over all child and family cases. She was soon promoted and began doing criminal prosecution. During this time, she became active with the Texas State Bar and joined the newly-formed Family Law Section of the State Bar in 1960. She would eventually become Chairwoman of the committee, making her the first woman in Texas history to become Chair of any such committee.

As Chairwoman, Mrs. Raggio and her committee uncovered 44 state laws which discriminated against women, and notably, married

women. She began a campaign to enact a Marital Property Bill and after seven drafts, Governor Connally signed it into law, marking the end of a three-year effort. She was so successful that she was asked to undertake the entire revision of all family laws in Texas and after ten years the Family Law Section of the Texas State Bar created the first complete Family Code of laws in the world.

Today, Mrs. Raggio has garnered numerous recognitions and honors including being elected the first female director of the State Bar of Texas. She is consistently regarded as the Mother of the Texas Family Code and Southern Methodist University has developed an annual Louise Ballerstedt Raggio Lecture Series in her honor. I ask my fellow colleagues to join me in honoring the work of Mrs. Raggio and her lifelong commitment to a fair and just legal system.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO SUSAN M. BRITTON

**HON. PAUL TONKO**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, New York State American Legion Auxiliary President, Susan M. Britton, has served with distinction during her term in office from July 2008 through July 2009. Mrs. Britton traveled to all 62 counties in the great state of New York, inspiring the members of the American Legion Auxiliary to honor and serve the veterans of New York State.

Susan Britton is a 35 year member of Clarke White Unit 589, American Legion Auxiliary in Albany County. She has remained an active and vital member of the organization, volunteering her services to veterans at the Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany and at the Albany VA Fisher House.

This year Department President Britton has chosen "Operation Purple" as her special project. Operation Purple began in 2004 and is sponsored through the National Military Family Association (NMFA). Operation Purple is the only program open to children of personnel from all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces ("purple" representing inclusion of the branches). The program focuses on helping military children deal with the challenges and stress that come with deployment by providing free weeks of summer camp at different locations to bring children together in a fun and healthy environment.

As word has spread about Operation Purple, there is a pressing need for additional support to allow as many children as possible to attend this specialized program. All funds donated will support resident children within New York State. There are two camps, located in Lewis and Orange counties.

Special fundraising projects have been conducted to support Operation Purple, including those by the American Legion Family, which include The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of the American Legion. To date, over \$60,000 has been raised to provide military children in New York with the opportunity to attend one of these camps.



A TRIBUTE IN REMEMBRANCE OF  
THEORA KING

**HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Theora King, a community leader and educator who has contributed enormously to the lives of many children in need.

Theora King has worked in the field of education for over forty years. She has a bachelor of science degree in education from Mercy College where she graduated magna cum laude. In 1990, Ms. King received the Educator of the Year Award from a parent organization in District 17. Ms. King has worked in several programs including Big Apple, Head Start, Learning Through Science, Title I, Latch Key, Summer Early Childhood Program, and Platform For Learning and Special Education.

Theora King often goes above and beyond what is required of her in order to keep children who are in need from being deprived of opportunities that are afforded to other children who have supportive families. Her love for children is demonstrated by using personal monies to pay for trips, breakfast, lunch, clothing and other essentials needed when a child's parents are unable to provide for them. Ms. King has volunteered her personal time to tutor children in reading to help them gain self-confidence, a love for reading, and reading proficiency to pass State Reading Examinations.

During her career, children have demonstrated love and respect toward Ms. King and children often come to her for advice and assistance to handle difficulties they encounter at home and in school. Ms. King is never too busy to take time from her personal life to help a child and his or her family who may be in need of assistance. Ms. King is also a member of the Open Door Church of God and Christ and she has served on the Usher Board. In the past, Ms. King served as Acting Parent Teacher's Association president and secretary when her children were students at P.S. 316. Ms. King has also chaired the Social Committee at P.S. 316 from 1968 to 2005.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Theora King.

IN HONOR OF THE NAVAL  
POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL

**HON. SAM FARR**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. FARR. Madam President, today the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California will celebrate its 100th anniversary.

Founded a century ago as the School of Marine Engineering at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, the Naval Postgraduate School has grown in response to a changing world. The school moved to Monterey, California in 1951, taking over the landmark Hotel Del Monte resort. Today, NPS is a global leader in national security and defense-related education and research.

The Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) is a unique graduate school—an institution dedi-

cated to providing education and research with a focus on relevance to the defense and security arenas and on recognizing and innovatively solving problems in support of our military forces, our country's global partners and our national security.

NPS provides high-quality, relevant and unique advanced education and research programs that increase the combat effectiveness of the Naval Services, other Armed Forces of the U.S. and our partners, to enhance our national security.

NPS is one of the oldest and most prestigious institutions belonging to the United States Department of Defense. Since its inception almost a century ago, NPS has been found to be worthy of the investment that both the Navy and the nation has made in it. The school has educated some of the most brilliant and effective leaders of our nation and of the world. Countless numbers of NPS graduates have made significant contributions to global stability and national security, and some remarkable breakthroughs in research at NPS have saved the lives of the men and women who so bravely defend their nations daily.

Madam President, I want to wish a happy 100th birthday to the Naval Postgraduate School.

NATHANIEL MARTINEZ

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Nathaniel Martinez who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Nathaniel Martinez is a senior at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Nathaniel Martinez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Nathaniel Martinez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO COMPANY  
B, 202D ENGINEER COMBAT  
BATTALLION

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very special tribute to a brave group of men in Ohio's Fifth Congressional District. Company B of the 202d Engineer Combat Battalion is celebrating their sixty-sixth anniversary.

Madam Speaker, there is no question the military is one of the key building blocks of our

country. From the earliest days of our Nation's history, courageous men and women have fought for the freedom and safety of the American people. Our soldiers have opened doors for America's citizens and allowed our children to live in a nation that is peaceful and free.

During World War II, Company B served in campaigns in Normandy, Central Europe, Northern France, Ardennes and the Rhineland. They were the only group to serve in all five campaigns and receive five battle stars in World War II.

The servicemen of Company B also fought alongside the 1st, 2d, 3d, 9th, and the 15th U.S. Army, the British 2d Army and the U.S. Navy throughout the war in 10 countries. One of their most significant contributions to the War effort was the construction of the longest Treadway Pontoon Bridge in the world at 1152 feet, which was built in less than six hours while facing enemy fire.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to Company B of the 202d Engineer Combat Battalion. Our communities are well served by having dedicated servicemen who have gone above and beyond the call of duty to protect our beloved Nation. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great group of men on their sixty-sixth anniversary.

INTRODUCTION OF MOLALLA WILD  
AND SCENIC RIVER BILL

**HON. KURT SCHRADER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. SCHRADER. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce The Molalla Wild and Scenic River Bill. This legislation would designate 21.3 miles of the Molalla River as "wild and scenic" and would provide federal designation in preserving the character of this section of the Molalla River.

This legislation is supported by numerous elected officials, civic leaders, and recreational and environmental groups in Clackamas and Marion counties including American Rivers, the City of Molalla, the Oregon State Police, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Wild Salmon Center, and the Willamette Riverkeepers. All of these groups recognize the social, cultural and economic benefits of this bill.

In Oregon, the Molalla River is known for its many recreational purposes which include hiking, diving, fishing, kayaking, whitewater rafting, picnicking, mountain biking, and horseback riding. It still serves as a water source for many citizens in Canby and Molalla, Oregon, and is nationally recognized for its beautiful and scenic wildlife. It provides spawning beds for threatened Steelhead Trout and Chinook salmon and is also an essential wildlife area for the pileated woodpecker, red tree vole, red-legged frog, northern spotted owl, Pacific giant salamander, and both golden and bald eagles.

Designating this section of the Molalla River as "wild and scenic" would permanently ensure its protection and preservation as one of Oregon's many natural state treasures. It would guarantee that future generations can experience the river's rich historical, cultural,

and recreational purposes. I am excited to introduce this legislation and urge my colleagues to support it.

**HONORING BISHOP GUILFOYLE  
HIGH SCHOOL**

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of the Bishop Guilfoyle High School girls basketball team of Altoona, PA. As the 2009 Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association Class A girls basketball champions, the Lady Marauders have shown the discipline and teamwork required to achieve greatness.

The Lady Marauders have a rich history of achievement. Having won two PIAA Class A championships in three seasons, and five overall, the Lady Marauders are no strangers to success. Their season's record of 30–1 is tied for the second most in a single season in Lady Marauder program history.

This year's season came to a close on March 21st at University Park, PA, and resulted in a 49–27 defeat of Nativity BMV by Bishop Guilfoyle's Lady Marauders. The hard work and talent of the nineteen players, as well as their five coaches, most certainly led to this rewarding experience.

These young women are exemplary athletes and their pride in their performance is an inspiration to all of Blair County. I believe that this championship will be one of many successes in the lives of these talented players and coaches, and I congratulate them for all their efforts.

**TRIBUTE TO DR. ISAIAH R. MCGEE**

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an outstanding constituent and an award-winning educator, Dr. Isaiah R. McGee. Dr. McGee is a 2009 recipient of the South Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities Inc. Excellence in Teaching Award. He is the director of choral studies and assistant professor of music at Claflin University. He also directs the Claflin University Concert Choir.

Dr. McGee is a native South Carolinian, having been born and raised in Anderson. He is a graduate of my alma mater, South Carolina State University, and earned his masters from the University of South Carolina. Dr. McGee earned his doctorate from Florida State University in Music Education—Choral Conducting, and served as a graduate assistant and director of the Gospel Choir at Florida State.

During his career, Dr. McGee has earned a reputation as an accomplished vocalist, conductor, adjudicator, and clinician. He has international experience, debuting as the Conte in Cimarosa's *Il Convito* at Teatro Signorelli in Cortona, Italy. He stays very active in professional organizations including the American Choral Directors Association and MENC.

Dr. McGee joined the Claflin University faculty in 1997, and has made an enviable mark on the Orangeburg campus. Dr. McGee is always looking for ways to enrich the experiences of his students to promote their performance and their commitment to their craft. Last year, he took Claflin's Concert Choir to China to participate in the pre-Olympic ceremonies. They performed in both Beijing and Shanghai.

Dr. McGee has developed a great deal of respect from his colleagues and students. Claflin University's president Dr. Henry Tisdale calls him "an exemplary member of our faculty and committed to teaching and service." Claflin's vice president for academic affairs Dr. George Miller says, "Dr. McGee's approach to teaching and scholarship with his student partners demonstrates the strength of the amalgam that results when theory and practice are combined."

Dr. McGee was selected for the Excellence in Teaching Award by his peers at Claflin University. The purpose of the award is to honor faculty members who demonstrate the highest standards of teaching that encourage students to strive for excellence in their studies and intellectual pursuits. In addition to the recognition, Dr. McGee receives a \$3,000 grant to be used for professional development opportunities.

Madam Speaker, I invite you and my colleagues to join me today in applauding the tremendous accomplishments of Dr. Isaiah McGee. He is an extraordinary example of an educator who inspires intellectual curiosity and demands outside enrichment to ensure his students reach their full potential. This award is well deserved and is recognition of a job well done.

**SAMUEL MARKOFF**

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Samuel Markoff who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Samuel Markoff is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Samuel Markoff is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Samuel Markoff for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

IN SPECIAL RECOGNITION OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE VILLAGE OF OTTAWA, OHIO

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

Whereas Congressman ROBERT E. LATTA extends his congratulations on the occasion of the One Hundred Seventy-Fifth Anniversary of the Village of Ottawa, Ohio; and

Whereas Ottawa, Ohio has been a proud member of the Northwest Ohio community since 1834; and

Whereas the citizens of Ottawa, Ohio provide friendship and tradition to all those in Northwest Ohio; and

Whereas Ottawa, Ohio has a long history of fostering business, education, and community relationships; therefore, be it

Resolved The people of Northwest Ohio are grateful for the service of the citizens and employers of Ottawa, Ohio. Ohio's Fifth Congressional District is well served by their dedication and support. We wish Ottawa, Ohio all the best during its celebration of the One Hundred Seventy-Fifth anniversary.

**TRIBUTE TO GENERAL DAVID D.  
MCKIERNAN**

**HON. IKE SKELTON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments, dedication, public service and valor of General David D. McKiernan, U.S. Army, outgoing Commander of NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and Commander U.S. Forces Afghanistan, who served our Nation with distinction during 37 years of faithful service. General McKiernan will retire from the Army on 1 August 2009, and we owe him our thanks and gratitude for his many efforts and years of service on behalf of our Nation.

A native of Ft. McPherson, Georgia, General McKiernan entered the U.S. Army in 1972, after graduating from the College of William and Mary and receiving a ROTC commission from the U.S. Army. During the course of his career he served at every level from platoon leader to four star commander. The units he commanded included the 1st Battalion, 35th Armor (Iron Knights), 1st Armored Division, 1st Brigade (Iron Horse) 1st Cavalry Division, 1st Cavalry Division, and 3rd U.S. Army/Combined Forces Land Component Command. He culminated his career serving as the theater commander—COMISAF/US Forces Afghanistan.

This superb officer performed key leadership roles during many of the crises and operations of the past 15 years. He served as the Deputy Chief of Staff G–2/G–3 with the Allied Command Europe Rapid Reaction Corp) while forward deployed in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. From August 1998 until September 1999, he served as Deputy Chief of Staff, Operations, Headquarters, United States

Army, Europe and Seventh Army during a period of simultaneous operations in Bosnia, Albania, and Kosovo. General McKiernan subsequently became the Coalition Forces Land Component Commander for Central Command. In March 2003, General McKiernan commanded and led all coalition and U.S. conventional ground forces in the invasion of Iraq.

As the capstone for an exceptional career of service to our country, General McKiernan distinguished himself from 3 June 2008 to 3 June 2009 while serving as the Commander, International Security Assistance Force and Commander, U.S. Forces—Afghanistan. General McKiernan was instrumental in developing the partnerships and setting the conditions necessary for achieving mission success in Afghanistan. He revamped the campaign strategy. He worked to improve command and control in that war by reorganizing the ISAF headquarters staff to better execute that strategy and working to establish a new command—U.S. Forces Afghanistan, significantly improving coordination of counterinsurgency operations across Afghanistan.

In the fall of 2008, General McKiernan articulated the need for a sizeable increase in U.S. forces in the strategically important southern region of Afghanistan to improve security and help safeguard national elections in August 2009. He was the first to recommend the need for a sizeable increase in civilian resources from the U.S. Government to bolster governance and development efforts.

General McKiernan improved operations in Afghanistan, issuing new Counterinsurgency Guidance as the campaign shifted to efforts to protect the Afghan population, obtaining legal authorities to conduct counternarcotics interdiction, improving force protection measures, and issuing new guidance that cut down on non-combatant casualties. General McKiernan worked with the Ministry of Interior to develop the Afghan Public Protection Program, which could become a blueprint for developing bottom up governance in the districts and provinces throughout the country. He worked with the Afghan Government to support a highly successful 2008–2009 voter registration program with over 4.5 million Afghans registering without major incident and prepared the plans to support a fair and credible election in August 2009. He received approval for his recommendation to accelerate the growth of the Afghan National Army to 134,000 by December 2011, and has started the planning effort to grow the Afghan National Security Forces up to 400,000 in the years to come. He also was the architect behind the plan to bring in U.S. units in 2009 that can not only conduct a rigorous counter-insurgency campaign in the south, but can build the capacity of the Afghan Army and Police by training, partnering and mentoring with Afghan Army and Police units. General McKiernan personally reinvigorated the Tripartite Commission (TPC) process with Afghanistan, Pakistan, and ISAF, and conducted bilateral meetings to improve U.S. and Pakistan relations and to make the case that both countries face a mutual terrorist threat. It is certainly my hope that General McKiernan's initiatives build momentum going into the summer of 2009.

General David D. McKiernan is a true American patriot. His leadership, keen intellect and performance throughout an intensive and demanding period of military history were instru-

mental in achieving success in mission after mission. He boldly led "America's finest" during combat operations in Desert Storm, the Balkans, the invasion of Iraq and finally in the harsh and difficult mountains and deserts of Afghanistan. I know his selfless performance of duty, courage under fire, exceptional integrity and quiet pursuit of excellence has inspired many American warriors who have served with him. I am sure he will be truly missed in Afghanistan by his troops, diplomatic colleagues, NATO and our Coalition partners, and the Government of Afghanistan. It gives me great pleasure today to recognize and salute a great American—General David McKiernan—before my colleagues. I wish General McKiernan and his lovely wife Carmen all the best that life has to offer as he concludes a most distinguished career in service to our country.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE MILITARY OVERPAYMENT FAIRNESS ACT OF 2009

#### HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Military Overpayment Fairness Act. Payment errors are common in all military branches and the burden of having to quickly repay an overpayment can place a significant strain on military families.

When I had a meeting with National Guard families and asked for their most significant problems, they spoke to me about the hardships caused by overpayment errors. I heard the story of a National Guard Sergeant from New Hampshire who was injured in Afghanistan and hospitalized in Walter Reed. Due to an error by the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS), he received four months of pay in error. He immediately brought these overpayments to DFAS's attention. DFAS assured the service member that there was no error and that he was entitled to all of the money he received. The service member disputed the payments several times, but was told they were correct. Then, a year later, DFAS reversed itself and suddenly notified him that he had been overpaid. They began deducting at the rate two-thirds of his monthly paycheck. To make matters worse, by this time he had enrolled in college and still had the continued, added burden of house payments. This and other similar stories show the severity of this problem in my home state of New Hampshire and across the nation.

I am introducing this legislation to ease the burden on servicemen and women by requiring DFAS to take into account the finances of members of the Armed Forces when pay errors are made. This bill gives the Department of Defense the flexibility to negotiate the terms of repayment, taking into account the finances of the service member, to avoid causing service members undue hardship. In addition, the bill states that not more than 10 percent of a service member's pay can be deducted monthly for an overpayment. Currently, up to two-thirds of a service member's salary can be deducted. The bill delays repayments if service members are wounded, ill, or deployed. It also has a five-year statute of limitations.

These provisions should encourage the Department of Defense to improve its accounting practices.

The men and women that serve our nation have already sacrificed for our country—there is no excuse for placing undue financial burdens on these men and women as a result of poor accounting practices. I was proud to introduce legislation to address the hardships caused by these errors. I look forward to its consideration in the House of Representatives.

#### VITTORRO MAESTAS

#### HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Vittorio Maestas who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Vittorio Maestas is a senior at Jefferson High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Vittorio Maestas is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Vittorio Maestas for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. J. GRESHAM BARRETT

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, unfortunately I missed recorded votes on the House floor on Monday, June 8, 2009.

I ask that the record reflect that had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall vote No. 311 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H.R. 1736); "nay" on rollcall vote No. 312 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H.R. 1709); "aye" on rollcall vote No. 313 (Motion to Suspend the Rules and Agree to H. Res. 420).

#### INTRODUCTION OF FEE DISCLOSURE BILL

#### HON. RICHARD E. NEAL

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce The Defined Contribution Plan Fee Transparency Act of 2009. During the last Congress, we expected some guidance from the Department of Labor on the issue of fee transparency, but not much was

finally implemented. Therefore, I believe that Congressional action is warranted and this bill provides a strong disclosure requirement to benefit both workers and companies in understanding fees.

A few years ago, AARP conducted a survey of 401(k) participants to find out what they knew about the fees paid by their plans. Plan fees can make a huge difference in your account balance. As the Department of Labor has pointed out in a helpful guide on the issue, "Fees and expenses paid by your plan may substantially reduce the growth in your account." Literally, it pays to know what these expenses are. What the AARP found in their survey is instructive: 83 percent of participants acknowledged they do not know how much they pay in fees or expenses. Considering the number of people who have told me they do not dare to even open their 401(k) statement in this devalued market, that percentage may have increased even more!

But fees are a serious issue and one which participants need to understand from the outset. The House Education and Labor Committee has held several hearings to highlight this issue over the past 18 months, and I commend the Committee Chairman, Mr. MILLER, for his leadership and thoughtful ideas about how to address fair disclosure.

The growth in defined contribution plans offers great opportunities for workers, with alternatives and options they did not have before. Many workers, however, are simply overwhelmed with the information distributed and, because of that, may not be able to utilize these opportunities. Certainly, more disclosure is preferred. But, as AARP found out, the need to better understand this information means it must be in an easily digestible format and in plain English.

The legislation I am filing today, which updates the bill I filed last Congress, would provide for disclosure both to the worker and to the employer. Participants, or workers, would get both an enrollment notice up-front and a quarterly notice updating them on their account. At enrollment, the bill requires that for each of the plan's investment alternatives, the employer would have to disclose the alternative's objective and investment manager, its risk and return characteristics and its historic rates of return in comparison to a benchmark. In addition, the employer must indicate whether the alternative is passively managed, as with an index fund, or actively managed, plus the differences between these two investment styles and whether or not the alternative is a single-alternative investment solution, such as a lifecycle or target retirement date fund.

Regarding fees, the bill requires employers to disclose to employees at enrollment the annual operating expenses for each investment alternative (together with a translation of these asset-based fees into illustrative dollar amounts), whether such fees pay for services beyond investment management, such as plan administration, and whether there are additional charges for buying or selling the particular alternative, such as redemption fees. In addition, participants must be provided with information about any separate fees they will be charged for plan administration as well as a notice that certain plan services they may decide to use could have separate charges associated with them, such as investment advice programs, brokerage windows, or plan loans. Accompanying these disclosures would be a

statement that participants should not select investments based solely on fees but based on careful consideration of a range of factors including the alternatives' risk level, returns and investment objectives. The bill requires this information about plan investments to be provided to employees annually as well.

In addition to this enrollment notice, each quarter, participants would receive information about the investments they had selected and the fees applicable to their accounts. This quarterly notice would describe which investment alternatives the individual participant was invested in, what percentage of the participant's total account each alternative represented, the risk and return characteristics of each such alternative and whether such alternatives were passively or actively managed. The statement would also summarize for participants what asset classes their account is invested in, with percentage breakdowns. On fees, the quarterly notice must describe the annual operating expenses (with dollar examples) and any sales charges for the alternatives the participant has selected, any separate charges for plan administration and any deductions for participant-initiated services. In addition, to assist employees who may want to make investment changes, the notice must tell participants how to access investment characteristic and fee information for alternatives in which they are not invested.

My bill also requires service providers to disclose to employers various fee and expense information in advance of a contract. This will ensure that employers have the information they need to bargain effectively with plan service providers and to keep costs at reasonable levels for participants.

Providers must give the employer an estimate of total fees, a detailed and itemized list of all the services to be provided under the contract and a schedule of any transaction charges that participants may face. Providers that offer multiple bundled services must separate the fees charged under the contract into fees for investment management and fees for administration and recordkeeping and must also disclose fees paid to intermediaries or other third-parties. Providers must also disclose whether they expect to receive payments from third-parties in connection with providing services to the plan, also referred to as revenue-sharing, and if so, must name those parties and the amount expected to be received from each. This revenue-sharing information is critical so that employers understand how their providers are being paid and whether any such financial relationships give rise to potential conflicts of interest. Providers will likewise have to disclose whether they may benefit from the offering of proprietary investment products or those of third parties and must tell employers if the investment products offered to the plan are available at other price levels. Plan service providers must also provide this detailed disclosure statement to employers every year the contract is in place and prior to any material modification of the contract. In addition, employers must make such statements available to plan participants upon written request so that those employees who want to delve into the details of the plan's financing can do so.

The Department of Labor's guide on 401(k) fees states that fees and expenses generally fall into three categories: plan administration, investment, and individual services fees. By

requiring all service providers, whether they just provide recordkeeping or if they perform it all, to disclose fees in broad categories, such as these, companies and employees can better evaluate what they are getting for what price they pay. It is my understanding that some service providers are already disclosing more than what is required. I hope that we can capture those "best practices" and implement them across the board so that all workers and employers have the best data available.

Additionally, my bill would apply not only to 401(k) plans, but to all tax-preferred, participant-directed defined contribution plans, including 403(b) plans and governmental 457(b) plans. The amendments contained in the bill are all within the Internal Revenue Code, and therefore, penalties for not complying will be taxes assessed per violation per day, subject to a cap. The bill is forward-thinking, pushing electronic delivery as much as possible. I hope to work with the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, Mr. RANGEL, to address this issue within the Committee very soon as I know he shares my concern that the taxpayers' interests be protected.

Despite the fact that 8 in 10 participants do not know what fees are charged, there is some good news out there too. According to a survey released in April by Deloitte, the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans, and the International Society of Certified Employee Benefit specialists, the average expense ratio for plan investments was down from the prior survey period. Clearly, the attention to fees is having some impact resulting in lower costs.

It is my hope that this bill will provide much more information about plan fees and expenses in a useful way without overwhelming recipients. I urge my colleagues to join me in this effort.

## STEM EDUCATION COORDINATION ACT OF 2009

SPEECH OF

**HON. MAXINE WATERS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, June 8, 2009*

Ms. WATERS. Madam Speaker, I add my support of House Resolution 1709, providing for the creation of a committee under the National Science and Technology Council to coordinate federal programs in support of science, technology, engineering and mathematics education. This legislation will synchronize programs at the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of Energy and Education—all organizations with a vested interest in the promotion of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education. This committee will provide a forum for our federal agencies to coordinate STEM activities and determine new ways to advertise programs to elementary and secondary students, eliminating two large roadblocks in the promotion of programs already provided by these agencies. I commend my colleague Representative BART GORDON, for bringing this important measure before the House.

As a former teacher and Head Start coordinator, I fully understand the importance of all proposals that extend the reach of education among the youth of our country. In Fiscal Year 2010, I requested funding for the African-American Male Achievers Network to provide students access to year-round technology enrichment activities and opportunities to explore STEM related education and career paths. This funding has the potential to increase academic achievement of inner city students and decrease gang involvement and community violence. Furthermore, innovation is key to our economic competitiveness in the World. Under current trends, by the year 2010, more than 90 percent of engineers and scientists will be living outside of the U.S. and currently more than 50 percent of all engineering doctoral degrees awarded by American engineering colleges are to foreign nationals. We have a pressing need to cultivate the next generation of science and mathematically oriented Americans by providing them access to the vast resources that our federal agencies can provide.

Madam Speaker, this measure is quite important to the future of our great country and I'm pleased to add my voice in support for this legislation. I plan to work with my colleagues to ensure that future American engineers and scientists have the resources have the capability and resources to innovate and create technologies.

**WORLD ELDER ABUSE  
AWARENESS DAY**

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the important work being done in Connecticut to bring attention to the problem of elder abuse, and to ask that all of my colleagues join the national observance of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15th.

Older adults are our parents and neighbors and friends—the grown-ups who cared for us when we were young and once protected us from harm. Now, we can help them live safely and with dignity. Sadly, elder abuse and neglect happens all too frequently in America. Elder abuse can be financial, sexual, emotional, and neglect; and it is not always intentional. It can happen in any kind of home. Sometimes abuse is the unintended action of an overwhelmed family member. Sometimes it is out of anger. Never is it deserved. Only one out of five cases is ever reported, and awareness of the problem is our first line of defense.

In Connecticut's Third District, The Coalition for the Advocacy, Prevention and Elimination of Older Adult Abuse (CAPE), is working to bring this hidden crisis into the light. They began a little over a year ago with a grant from the National Committee for the Prevention of Elder Abuse. CAPE is led by The Center for Elder Abuse Prevention at The Jewish Home for the Elderly and the Southwestern Area Agency on Aging. Today, the partnership has earned the generous support of The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Local Funding Partnerships and many local funders including The Fairfield County Community Foundation

and The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation. These resources allow The Center to help victims who cannot stay at a domestic violence shelter, because of physical or cognitive issues that occur in late-life, find a safe temporary place to live, where their special needs can be met and the healing can begin.

On June 15th, CAPE will be holding a World Elder Abuse Awareness Day event at the Jewish Home for the Elderly in Fairfield. I commend their efforts to ensure that my constituents know how to spot the signs that a friend or loved one may be the victim of abuse, and where they can go for help. And I encourage my colleagues to contact me to learn more about elder abuse and become part of the solution in their communities.

Again, I commend the work of The Center and CAPE. Ending elder abuse begins by making every day World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

**CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON MEN'S CREW TEAM**

**HON. JIM McDERMOTT**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. McDERMOTT. Madam Speaker, I would like to submit the following:

University of Washington Men's Rowing Team and Honored Guests,

I write to give my hearty congratulations to the University of Washington's men's rowing team for earning their 12th varsity eight national championship, the 107th IRA Regatta, and sweeping the eights on the way to a historic four golds and five medals overall.

This astounding overall performance was capped by a thrilling come-from-behind victory over arch-rival California and I would like to take this time to commend the varsity rowers on their fine performance. Heath Allen, Aljosa Corovic, Will Crothers, Steve Full, Rob Gibson, Jesse Johnson, Max Lang, Katelin Snyder, and David Worley have earned my utmost admiration, as have all the members of the University of Washington's rowing team, down to the last rower in the boathouse.

What makes this victory so impressive is the volume of dominance exhibited by this extremely deep team. The varsity eight winning gold is an impressive feat in itself, but to sweep the eights is the highest testament to the dedication of the team and the culture of hard work and determination established by Coach Bob Ernst.

Since 1903, when the University of Washington first participated in intercollegiate rowing, our crews have established themselves as the toughest and most determined crews in the country. This year's crews have continued that tradition by emphatically putting the "gold" back in the purple and gold.

I am extremely proud to represent you in Congress and I know that with the foundation of hard work instilled in these young rowers by their coach and the University of Washington, there are no limits to what they will go on to accomplish in life.

MARIAH MCCORMICK

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Mariah McCormick who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Mariah McCormick is a senior at Pomona High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Mariah McCormick is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Mariah McCormick for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication she has shown in her academic career to her future accomplishments.

**HONORING GRANT TUCEK FOR HIS APPOINTMENT TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY**

**HON. PHIL GINGREY**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. GINGREY of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young man from Georgia's 11th Congressional District who has distinguished himself as an excellent student and leader and has committed to serving his country. I am proud to announce that Grant Tucek from Powder Springs, Georgia has received appointments to both the United States Military Academy and the United States Naval Academy and will enter the Military Academy this year. Grant attends Harrison High School where he has a 4.22 grade point average and is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Beta Club. Grant is also in the top 5% of all foreign language students. Despite Grant's heavy focus on academics, he has remained very active in extracurricular activities. During High School, Grant has participated in the Navy JROTC, where he has served as Company Executive Officer, Orienteering Team Commander, and as a member of the Rifle Team. He was also honored with the American Legion Military medal.

Grant has also contributed to the arts and athletics at Harrison High School, playing trumpet in the Symphonic Band and running on Harrison's track and field team. Grant Tucek is an incredibly well-rounded young man, and I am honored to have the privilege to nominate him for an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy. I want to take this time to congratulate Grant as well as his parents, Wayne and Denise Tucek, for his accomplishments. It is because of dedicated young people like Grant that America has the finest military in the world. Our Nation is fortunate to have his service.

HONORING NEWSWEEK RANKING OF THE SCHOOL FOR THE TALENTED AND GIFTED AND THE SCHOOL FOR SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING AT YVONNE A. EWELL TOWNVIEW CENTER

**HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I would like to congratulate the School for the Talented and Gifted and the School for Science and Engineering at Yvonne A. Ewell Townview Center for receiving the extraordinary honor of being ranked as the top two public schools in the nation.

Each year, Newsweek ranks the top public high schools out of a possible 27,000, placing these two schools as the top two out of the 1,500 schools listed. For 2009 the Magnet School for the Talented and Gifted ranked number one, with the Magnet School for Engineering and Science ranking number two. I am delighted that these two schools have achieved such a distinction, placing them among the elite public institutions in this country.

Additionally, I would like to recognize W. T. White High School which ranked 171st and Woodrow Wilson High School which ranked 637th. These rankings put all of these high schools in the top 6 percent of all public secondary schools in the country.

Located in my district of Dallas, Texas, Townview Magnet is one of the most diverse schools in the state, with minorities representing over half of the student population. Given the diverse nature of the City of Dallas itself, and the increased globalization of most industries, the students attending these two schools will have the opportunity not only to impact the Dallas area, but on a global scale. This marks the third time in 4 years that the School for the Talented and Gifted has been ranked number one in the nation. This unveiling marks the second time that the School of Engineering and Science has been ranked second nationally, the other year being in 2007.

This honor shows the values of a good educational environment, as many of the students attending these two schools will have opportunities to be the future leaders of this country. This honor will serve as an inspiration to the faculty, staff and students of Townview Magnet School to maintain a high level of work. I extend my appreciation for the hard work of everyone involved in achieving this honor, and lend my support to the future success of Townview.

Madam Speaker, again, I congratulate the students, teachers, principals and parents of Townview Magnet School for the Talented and Gifted and the Magnet School for Science and Engineering on this honor.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO VAN WERT MIDDLE SCHOOL

**HON. ROBERT E. LATTA**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, it is with a great deal of pride that I rise to pay a very

special tribute to an outstanding school in my district in Northwest Ohio. Van Wert Middle School in Van Wert, Ohio is one of only 80 schools in the United States to be recognized as a School to Watch by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform.

Madam Speaker, there is no question that education is the foundation of our country. From the earliest days of our nation's history, children have sought out the opportunity to learn subjects such as math, science, and literature. Education has opened doors for America's citizens and allowed our nation to be one of the most advanced in the world.

Every year, the Schools to Watch program identifies schools across the country that are well on their way to meeting the criteria for high performance. These schools are known to be academically excellent, developmentally responsive, and socially equitable.

In order for Van Wert Middle School to be selected for this prestigious honor, this high-performing school established norms, structures and organizational arrangements to support and sustain its trajectory toward excellence. Van Wert Middle School has a sense of purpose that drives every facet of their practice and decision-making.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying special tribute to the Van Wert Middle School. Our communities are well served by having dedicated educators who go above and beyond the norm to teach the citizens of tomorrow. On behalf of the people of the Fifth District of Ohio, I am proud to recognize this great achievement.

HONORING ANNETTE GODISSART

**HON. BILL SHUSTER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. SHUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Ms. Annette Godissart, the recipient of the Bedford County Rotary Club's 2009 Citizen of the Year Award. As this year's award winner, Annette has shown exemplary service as a citizen of Bedford County.

In addition to her duties as a Laboratory and Cardio-Pulmonary Manager at UPMC Bedford Hospital, Annette has remained steadfast in her service to the community as a volunteer, with an emphasis on the youth of Bedford County. Whether serving the Bedford County School System as a member of the Athletic or Technology Committee, or acting as umpire for youth softball games, her efforts to aid in the positive development of Bedford County youths have been constant.

Annette has been integral to the success of the Bedford County "Reality Tour" at the Bedford County Jail. Here, on a monthly basis, she has spent the last five years working to convey the importance of remaining drug-free to hundreds of local teenagers by showing them the stark realities of drug abuse. This type of selfless volunteerism is another way in which Annette seeks to mold the future leaders of Bedford County.

The artistic and civic-minded aspects of Annette's community service are shown in her involvement in community theatre as well as the Boy Scouts of America. In the theatre Annette entertains Bedford County residents

through her stage talents, appearing in several shows each year with the Bedford County Players, a local non-profit theater group that promotes the involvement of youth in on stage productions. With respect to scouting, after years of service to her two sons, and the Boy Scouts, as a scout leader, Annette remains active as a merit badge counselor, where she helps scouts to earn their Theatre Merit Badges.

Through her dedication to community service, and her enduring commitment to the young men and women of Bedford County, Annette Godissart is an exemplary citizen who embraces the Rotary Motto of "Service above Self." She is deserving of this year's Citizen of the Year Award, and I congratulate her for all her efforts.

EMILIO MARTINEZ

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Emilio Martinez who has received the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. Emilio Martinez is a senior at Arvada High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Emilio Martinez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential that students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations once again to Emilio Martinez for winning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication he has shown in his academic career to his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING CONGREGATION  
TORAT EMET

**HON. PATRICK J. TIBERI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. TIBERI. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize Congregation Torat Emet. This synagogue is the product of the hard work and dedication of many individuals in Central Ohio and their commitment to the religious growth of their membership and the local Jewish community.

Central Ohio is blessed with many houses of faith that can claim long traditions of service to our community. The addition of Congregation Torat Emet to Central Ohio will continue to make it a vibrant and thriving spiritual center. The congregation will serve the community well and is an inspiration to all.

Throughout our community's history those seeking a place to learn more about their faith have found a home among our houses of worship. The faithful dedication exhibited helps to make Columbus and Central Ohio the kind of place where citizens of all religions and nationalities desire to live, work and raise their families.

This congregation, of more than 150 families, began only five years ago. The goal of securing and strengthening modern Orthodoxy in Central Ohio has been driven by Jay and Jeanie Schottenstein along with Rabbi Howard Zack. Rabbi Zack has been the Spiritual Leader of Congregation Torat Emet since its inception in September 2001. Today, as they open their second Synagogue in Columbus, Ohio may the local Jewish community celebrate the reality of this vision.

I offer my congratulations to the Congregation Torat Emet and the dedication of their new facility.

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VETERANS NONPROFIT RESEARCH  
AND EDUCATION CORPORATIONS  
ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2009

**HON. BOB FILNER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, June 9, 2009*

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, today I introduce the "Veterans Nonprofit Research and Education Corporations Enhancement Act of 2009".

As the nation's largest healthcare provider network and the custodian of our veterans' health, the Department of Veterans Affairs has an important role to play in the development of innovative new healthcare technologies, medication, and practices.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Veterans Affairs research program is well respected within the research community. The program focuses on research that concerns the special health care needs of veterans especially war related injuries and illnesses.

Some recent successes of the program include neuromotor prosthesis for paralyzed patients, development of an artificial retina for veterans who have lost vision due to retinal damage, and the use of a generic drug (prazosin) for veterans with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder.

Importantly, this research program does not just benefit veterans but also American citizens as a whole. Years ago, this program was responsible for bringing to the medical community the pacemaker.

Nonprofit Research Corporations were authorized by Congress in 1988. The intent of these Corporations was to provide a flexible funding mechanism to conduct research and education at VA medical centers. Today, there are 82 independent, state-chartered corporations.

Nonprofit research corporations are a critical component of the overall VA research program. In Fiscal Year 2007 alone, nonprofits were responsible for securing \$250 million from the private sector and non-VA public funding to support over 4,000 research and education programs at the VA. This includes providing nearly 2,500 without compensation research employees who work side-by-side with VA-salaried employees.

This legislation authorizes the creation of multi-medical center research corporations that would allow two or more VA medical centers to share one Nonprofit Research Corporation. VA facilities with small research programs may join with larger ones. Additionally, smaller ones will be allowed to pool resources to support a Corporation.

It also clarifies the purpose of the corporation by enabling Nonprofit Research Corpora-

tions to support functions related to the conduct of research and education.

Additionally, this legislation will broaden the qualifications for the two mandatory non-VA board members beyond familiarity with medical research and education to acquire those with legal and financial expertise for sound governance and financial management. This provision would also remove the overly strict language prohibiting non-VA board members from having any financial relationship, current or past with a for-profit entity which funds VA research or education. This change would be consistent with the rules applied to federal employees in dealing with conflict of interest by allowing for means of recusal.

This legislation further clarifies the powers of corporations. Some of the key authorities provided by this provision include allowing the Corporations to charge registration fees for education and training programs and to use such funds to offset program expenses or for future educational purposes.

It will allow the VA to reimburse Nonprofit Research Corporations for the salary and benefits of NPC employees loaned to VA under Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) assignments.

Finally this legislation will improve accountability and oversight of corporations by requiring each Nonprofit Research Corporation to submit an annual report to the Secretary of the VA on operations, activities, and accomplishments. It would also require Nonprofit Research Corporations with revenues in excess of \$300,000 in any given year to obtain an audit.

I urge your support.